Sunnyside News

Vol. 1, No. 66 Winter 1994

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association Upcoming Meetings

February 8 - An officer from Ingleside will give a Sunnyside crime report.

March 8 - Update on plans for the City College hillside — are we really out of the woods? Are neighbors involved in the current planning process?

April 12 - Neighborhood traffic safety and parking discussion — we'll identify one or two particularly bad problems and ask the city to correct them.

May 10 - To be announced

June 14 - To be announced

The SNA meets on the **second Tuesday** of every month at **7:30 p.m.** and all residents are welcome. We meet in the auditorium of the **Sunnyside Elementary School** on Foerster Street (between Staples and Hearst). Both the main door and the auditorium door should be unlocked — try the other one if you find a locked door.

President's Message

by David Wall

When Assemblyman John Burton's office called me several weeks ago, I was once again reminded of the value of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association. The assemblyman had assigned an assistant to check in with the neighborhood associations to see if there were any problems that needed working on.

Unfortunately, we do have a problem. And the solution to the problem lies in Sacramento. But, since we have asked for Senator Kopp's help on this particular problem and the senator has been actively involved in working on the solution, I don't think I would have thought of asking for Mr. Burton's help. Our two excellent elected representatives are not known to be political allies. But here was Burton's staff asking if there was anything they could do for us.

Many of us are tired of hearing about our problems with City College. In our last newsletter, I reported that our problem with the infamous Shop/Warehouse was nearly solved — that City College was going to split the project, building the shops next to the freeway near Ocean Avenue and turning the existing shops across town into a modern warehouse. I reported that the danger to the

***President's Message**, continued on page 3*

From the Editor

Many thanks to all of our kind neighbors who said they enjoyed the last issue of *Sunnyside News*. We intend to publish on a regular schedule this year, and to continue the focus on neighborhood news and interests. Your contributions are welcome (next deadline is March 10), as are your comments and suggestions.

If you aren't a member already, join your neighbors in the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association. We have a lot more clout with the city and City College as an association than we do as individuals. *Sunnyside News* is the association's biggest expense, and without your financial support, we can't produce the newsletter. Join us today! ✡

Rita Evans

Sunnyside Neighborhood Assn. Treasurer's Report

For the year ended December 14, 1993

Income

Dues	$360.00
Advertising	80.00
Bank Interest	28.40
Total	$468.40

Expenses

Printing and mailing	$688.29
Post Office box rent, etc.	110.00
Sunnyside School PTA	50.00
Memorial Gift	200.00
Coalition SF Neighborhoods	92.54
Total	$1140.83

Balance on deposit at Bank of America $2054.12

SNA Executive Board

President - David Wall, 239-2338
Vice-President - Don Price, 469-7307
Treasurer - Joe Mahoney, 584-6510
Kasey Asberry - Rec. Secretary, 586-1718
Rita Evans - Corr. Secretary, 587-6234
Rita D'Amico - Member-at-Large, 587-8996

Contact any SNA board member if you wish to discuss any neighborhood concerns.

Sunnyside News

Sunnyside News is your source for news about neighborhood activities and the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association.

Your contributions to *Sunnyside News* of news, features or letters are welcome. You can mail items to SNA, PO Box 27615, San Francisco, CA 94127, or better yet, please contact Rita Evans, 587-6234.

Deadline for the next issue is March 10.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions expressed in *Sunnyside News*. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of SNA. ✡

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President's Message, continued from page 1

hillside next to our neighborhood was nearly passed.

I am sorry to report now that our problem is still *nearly* solved and the danger is still *nearly* passed.

It seems that City College needs more state money before they can proceed with working drawings for the new site. Someone in the state Department of Finance believes that this is City College's problem and that City College should cut classes to pay for it.

The project is therefore on hold just short of resolution. We are nearly home, but not quite.

Burton's office got right on this problem. A letter went out to the Department of Finance. The bureaucrat's formal name was scratched out and changed to "Dear Russ" in the assemblyman's own handwriting.

I was impressed. I haven't seen any results yet, but I can sure see that advantage of having more than one friend in Sacramento. I was also impressed by the quality of the assemblyman's staff. Ms. Julie Brandt actually attended our December meeting to give us an update and proved to be a very competent woman.

It may take special legislation, and I may have to go to Sacramento myself, but I think we are going to see an end to this thing very soon.

Many of us would like to see this and other neighborhood problems just go away. In a perfect society, one solution would take care of business and these problems wouldn't just keep coming back like a returned ping-pong ball. But real world politics does seem like table tennis.

Part of the job of our neighborhood association is to just be there standing ready to put that sucker back over the net.

Another part of the job is to be there standing ready to accept help offered from unexpected quarters. ✡

Halloween In Sunnyside

by Don Price

We are all so lucky to live in the Sunnyside district of San Francisco! This really hit home this past Halloween when watching the preparations for Halloween in the Neighborhood.

It was like going back to suburban childhood roots to see the community spirit which abounds in Sunnyside. In these troubled times of crime and violence it is really nice to see a day of the year when people are out of their houses decorating for friends, family and trick-or-treaters, paying no attention to the intrusion of strangers who come by for a trick-or- treat. If we could only live this way each day of the year it would be wonderful but alas, we bar our doors and windows to strangers and let the door go unanswered if a stranger rings our bell. But not on Halloween!

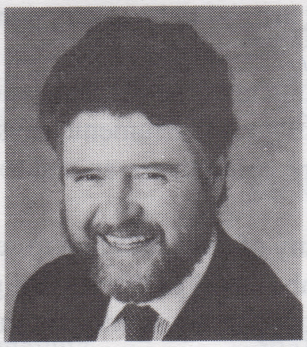
Sunnyside was a blaze of color on October 31. A walk around the neighborhood revealed a women extending a skeleton from a noose which was to sway in the night wind and scare the kids as they walked by. A witch was seen leaving her house in full costume, black pointed hat snatched by the breeze as she entered her car. A grave yard was dug, for one night only, in a flower bed whose former flower residents had wilted in the autumn cold, cardboard headstones revealing the spirit of

Halloween. A true Sunnyside spirit that can only exist in a community which feels safe and sane as we do here. Are we not so extremely fortunate to live in Sunnyside.

When trick-or-treaters rang bells, neighbors felt secure in opening their doors to other neighbors, but strangers just the same. This is a true sign of how much more secure we are in this neighborhood than many in San Francisco.

There were goblins and ghouls, ninja turtles and Barny dinosaurs, hideous monsters, and lots of parents on sidewalks having fun with the kids and shouting "Happy Halloween" to the providers of the treats. There were carved pumpkins galore, decorated windows and doors, and the true treat was the spirit of Halloween that was easily evident.

Next time someone asks you where you live in The City say "a friendly and safe neighborhood called Sunnyside, just past Glen Park...on the way to Saint Francis Wood". They still won't know where you mean but they will know there still is safety in large cities when community support is present. ✪



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In the Community..For the Community

Sunnyside Elementary School Welcomes The New Year

by Kasey Asberry

Parents, teachers and supporters of the students at Sunnyside School can look forward to numerous challenges in 1994.

Although violence of gunplay has enjoyed the media spotlight as a major problem of this time, in our neighborhood we are dealing with the effects of a violence no less devastating even though it is less visible. This violence is what is **not** happening for our children in their schools. As federal and state financial support evaporates, unmet student needs are multiplying.

Our principal, Dr. Margaret Penn, continually finds herself in the position of having to do more with less, as the charge of educating students has steadily grown in complexity. Under the circumstances it is difficult to maintain any dream of better education and yet it is essential that we do. Those of us who have chosen Sunnyside for our children realize that so much systematic rebuilding must be done that it could take a generation to bring education up to date.

Yet we don't give up. Why?

In part the answer lies in why we chose Sunnyside School in the first place. Built between 1924 and 1929, the school has a very distinctive character. It is relatively small, with about 360 students and thirteen classrooms. A fair number of the parents of children currently in school are themselves Sunnyside School alumni. For those of us who aren't, we may wish we were. We at least want to offer our children the sense of continuity, community and pride that comes with being proactive about your education.

While recognizing that language, level of capability and background differences can challenge the democratic processes of an organization, ultimately we feel that diversity is strength and that the process of including various peoples enriches all of our children's lives far beyond what you might expect looking at our bare schoolyard and tattered auditorium curtains.

We don't give up because our children are growing well, influenced by teachers, staff and volunteers engaged in a labor of love. Even though our dreams of Sunnyside School as a vital center of activity for the whole community may at some times feel remote, continuing to work to realize those dreams provides our children with a model for action in their lives that will serve them far beyond elementary school.

We invite you to join our effort. ☼

The Sunnyside School PTA meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the library of the Sunnyside Elementary School (located at 250 Foerster between Staples and Hearst). All interested neighbors are welcome to attend. Child care is available during the meetings.

For information about the PTA, call Kasey Asberry, 586-1718.

To find out about volunteer opportunities at Sunnyside Elementary School, call Kasey or Dr. Margaret Penn, 469-4746. ☼

Mark your calendar!

Sunnyside School's annual Spring Family Fair will be held on Saturday, May 14, from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Sunnyside School schoolyard. Contact Dr. Penn for more information. ☼

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Sunnyside Neighborhood Association
Annual Membership Dues

$10 per year, per household

The Executive Board of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association wishes you a most happy and prosperous New Year!

W e encourage all residents of Sunnyside to join the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association. This year the association is installing a new system to collect dues for membership. In the past we used the month the member joined as the renewal month. But this has become hard to manage so we are installing a simple system:

1 year membership (if you join January-June).....$ 10
½ year membership (if you join July-December).....$ 5

ALL members are now due for renewal in January.

The benefits of financially supporting your Sunnyside Neighborhood Association are numerous. Even if you choose not to attend monthly meetings (held the second Tuesday of each month at Sunnyside School), your membership dollars are hard at work keeping Sunnyside the type of neighborhood you want to live in.

Our very small budget goes a long way in supporting issues that arise in our community. For example, the successful fight to keep the City College hillside free from a neighborhood intrusive warehouse is a direct result of your financial support and attendance at neighborhood/ college meetings. And don't forget that these funds also pay to produce *Sunnyside News* that keeps you informed quarterly about issues in this community.

We need your support to be effective neighborhood "watchdogs." So take a few moments to complete this form and drop your check in the mail today. By doing this you insure that when the next neighborhood project or crisis arises (and they always do) we will have the funds to support the type of response you would want your association to provide.

Join the SNA today!

Sunnyside Neighborhood Assn., PO Box 27615, San Francisco, CA 94127. Make checks payable to SNA. Dues are $10/year. Thanks!

Name _____

Address _____ **Zip Code** _____

Phone _____ **I want to volunteer** _____

SNA Upcoming Meetings

February 8 - Neighborhood crime report

March 8 - Update on plans for City College hillside

April 12 - Traffic safety and parking discussion

SNA meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Sunnyside Elementary School. All Sunnyside residents are encouraged to attend.

Join Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

We need you to join Sunnyside Neighborhood Assn. There's strength in numbers when neighbors join together. See page 7 for more information.

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Sunnyside Neighborhood Assn.
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